

Victims and Witnesses: *Victim Impact Statements*

If a defendant is convicted or enters a guilty plea, crime victims may submit a Victim Impact Statement describing the physical, emotional, and financial effects of the crime. Submission of these statement is voluntary. In the Middle District of Tennessee, crime victims receive the Victim Impact Statement forms from the U.S. Probation Office. These forms should be completed and returned promptly to the U.S. Probation Office. This information is submitted to the Judge prior to sentencing and may be used to help determine a defendant's sentence and/or amount of restitution. Crime victims also have the right to speak at the sentencing hearing.